

KEN SALAZAR
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON, DC:
702 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:
2300 15TH STREET
SUITE 450
DENVER, CO 80202
(303) 455-7800

<http://www.salazar.senate.gov>

March 8, 2007

Mr. Keith E. Eastin
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Installations & Environment
110 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Secretary Eastin:

The Army's proposed expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site has raised very serious concerns around Colorado, including among the landowners and residents of southeastern Colorado who would be most affected. People are concerned about the proposed expansion's effects on their livelihoods, their way of life, their land, and the agricultural economy of southeastern Colorado.

You heard some of these voices last year when I invited you to Colorado to host a public meeting. I have relayed the concerns of southeastern Coloradans to you on several other occasions as well, but I want to underline, yet again, the importance of crafting a plan that yields substantial benefits to the residents and communities of southeastern Colorado. The Army should do all it can to craft a win-win solution for both our soldiers and the residents of the region. Otherwise, any proposed expansion will fail.

I want to be clear about what I believe a win-win solution may entail and about how I will evaluate any plans for expansion that the Army puts forward. In my view, a win-win solution must not simply address the economic impacts of expansion, but should result in positive economic gain for the area. Economic gain means going beyond traditional programs like Payment in Lieu of Taxes, and it must be more than a short-term payment from the federal government.

As the Army works with local communities to develop its expansion plan it should explore a variety of concepts, including:

- Creating an economic development fund that will sustain growth and new investments in southeastern Colorado;
- Allowing grazing to continue in the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site;
- Leasing land from private landowners so that ranchers can continue to own and graze their lands;

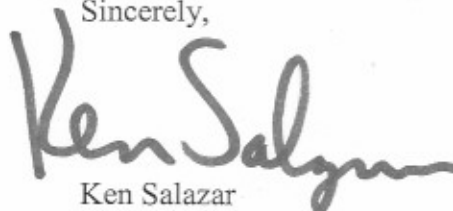
- Using goods and services from the communities of southeastern Colorado;
- Minimizing any tax impacts on citizens who choose to sell land to the Army;
- Allowing public access to cultural and historic sites on Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site;

In addition, the Army should demonstrate that its plans for expansion at the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site: 1) do not involve the use of eminent domain; 2) are fiscally responsible; 3) are fully necessary for the training of our soldiers; 4) protect the agricultural, natural, cultural and environmental heritage of the region; 5) thoroughly consider alternate acquisition sites and smaller acreage levels for expansion; and 6) are available for public scrutiny, discussion, and comment.

I want to emphasize the importance of a public dialogue on the proposed expansion, because the Army must solicit and consider the voices and needs of Coloradans as it develops its plans. The Army's plans for expansion can only be successful if they incorporate the good ideas, suggestions, and concerns of southeastern Coloradans. A win-win solution for southeastern Colorado and our troops depends on the success of a candid and open dialogue among a broad range of people, including community leaders, stakeholders, and Army officials.

I ask that you share drafts, concept documents, and maps for potential expansion with me and area residents as soon as the Army develops them. I will be closely scrutinizing these plans to determine whether they benefit our men and women in uniform, the residents of southeastern Colorado, and our nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ken Salazar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and last name "Salazar" clearly distinguishable.

Ken Salazar
United States Senator

Cc: Maj. Gen. Robert W. Mixon Jr.

The Honorable Bob Bauserman, The Honorable Kevin Karney, The Honorable Jake Klein,
Otero County Commissioners

The Honorable Lynden Gill, The Honorable Bill Long, The Honorable Thomas Wallace,
Bent County Commissioners

The Honorable Jim Montoya, The Honorable Ken Torres, The Honorable Robert Valdez, Las
Animas County Commissioners

The Honorable Glen Ausmus, The Honorable Troy Crane, The Honorable Peter Dawson,
Baca County Commissioners